

## **2013-125 AUDIT SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES—California Department of Health Care Services—Medi-Cal Dental Program**

The audit by the California State Auditor will provide independently developed and verified information related to the Denti-Cal program and will include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Review and evaluate the laws, rules, and regulations significant to the audit objectives.
2. Compare the utilization rates of specialty, preventative, and treatment services for children enrolled in the Healthy Families Program and the Denti-Cal program over the past three years, to the extent the data is available.
  - a. Assess reasons for any significant differences in utilization rates between the two programs.
  - b. Determine the reasons for any changes in the dental service access or utilization rates for children formerly enrolled in the Healthy Families Program that are now enrolled in the Denti-Cal program.
3. Review and determine the effectiveness of the California Department of Health Care Services' (Health Care Services) efforts over the past three years to improve beneficiaries' utilization of child dental care in the Denti-Cal program.
4. Assess Health Care Services' efforts over the past five years to increase the participation of dental providers in the Denti-Cal program.
  - a. Review trends in the number of participating dental providers, to the extent data are available.
  - b. Assess the effectiveness of Health Care Services' outreach efforts to dental providers.
5. Determine the effect of reimbursement rates over the past three years on participation of dental providers in the Healthy Families Program and the Denti-Cal program.
  - a. Review trends in dental provider reimbursement rates under both programs, to the extent data is available.
  - b. Compare and assess reasons for any significant differences in dental provider participation in both programs.
6. Determine, for the most recent year that information is available, the availability of dental providers participating in the Denti-Cal program for both general and specialist dental services throughout the State.

- a. Determine areas where the greatest gaps exist between patient need and dental provider availability.
  - b. Assess Health Care Services' efforts to improve dental provider availability in areas where such gaps exist.
- 7. Determine whether Health Care Services has appropriate data collection methods to track beneficiary utilization and dental provider participation rates.
  - a. Evaluate the effectiveness of Health Care Services' current data collection methods.
  - b. Assess Health Care Services' plans to modify data collection methods in response to changes in state and federal laws.
- 8. To the extent possible, identify factors that may contribute to Denti-Cal provider rates being lower than comparable programs administered in other states.
- 9. Review and assess any other issues that are significant to the Denti-Cal program.